

E4S and Supercontainers









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E4S BOF @ SC19

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Initial HPC Container Vision



- Support HPC software development and testing on laptops/workstations
 - Create working container builds that can run on supercomputers
 - Minimize dev time on supercomputers
- Developers specify how to build the environment AND the application
 - Users just import a container and run on target platform
 - Have many containers, but with different manifests for arch, compilers, etc.
 - Not bound to vendor and sysadmin software release cycles
- Performance matters
 - Use mini-apps to "shake out" container implementations on HPC
 - Envision features to support future workflows (ML/DL/in-situ analytics)

ECP Supercontainers

- Joint DOE effort Sandia, LANL, LBNL, LLNL, U. of Oregon
- Ensure container runtimes will be scalable, interoperable, and well integrated across DOE
 - Enable container deployments from laptops to Exascale
 - Assist ECP applications and facilities leverage containers most efficiently
- Three-fold approach
 - Scalable R&D activities
 - Collaboration with related ST and AD projects
 - Training, Education, and Support
- Activities conducted in the context of interoperability
 - Portable solutions
 - Optimized E4S container images for each machine type
 - Containerized ECP that runs on Astra, A21, El-Capitan, ...
 - Work for multiple container implementations
 - Not picking a "winning" container runtime
 - Multiple DOE facilities at multiple scales



E4S Container Images

Today: E4S Container images available

Include full gambit of software found in E4S

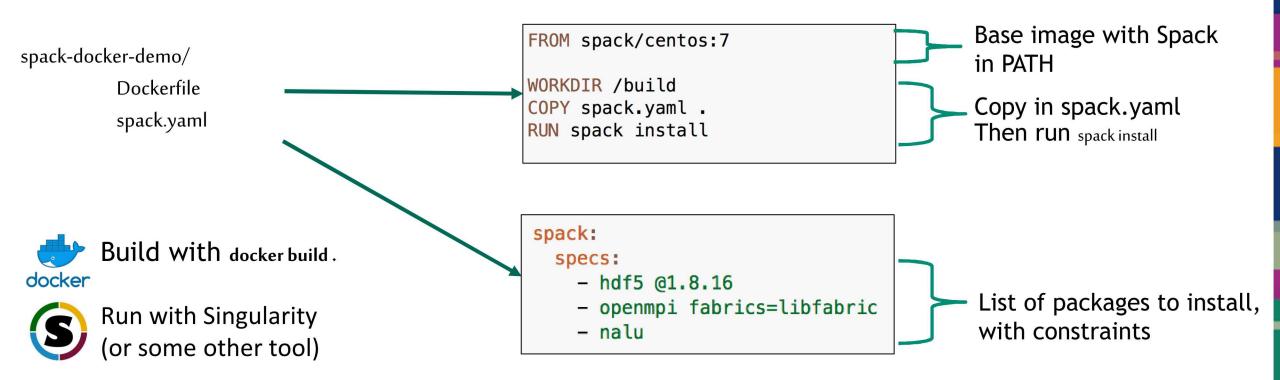
- Leverages Spack package management
- Can be used for system software, library, and app development within ECP
- Images available on several container runtimes
 - Singularity, Shifter, Charliecloud, ...
- Next: Optimized container images targeting Exascale platforms
 - Base container images for target platforms
 - Will leverage advanced Spack features
 - Environments, Binary installs, multi-stage build optimizations...
 - Supported by centralized container repository
 - Developers leverage base images for custom deployments





Spack environments help with building containers

- We recently started providing base images with Spack preinstalled.
- Very easy to build a container with some Spack packages in it:



Emerging workloads on HPC with Containers

- Support emerging AI/ML/DL frameworks on HPC
 - Containers useful to adapt ML software to HPC
 - Already supported and heavily utilized in industry
- Extreme-scale Scientific Software Stack (E4S)
 - Includes TensorFlow & Pytorch in container image
 - Find Sameer Shende for more details! e4s.io
- Working with DOE app teams to deploy custom ML tools in containers
- Investigating scalability challenges and opportunities







